

Susan Lea Riggs
Acting Director, State Department of Housing and Community Development



On April 27, 2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. designated Susan Lea Riggs to serve as Acting Director of the State Department of Housing and Community Development. Prior to this position, Ms. Riggs held the appointed position of Deputy Secretary for Housing Policy for the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

Before joining the Agency, Ms. Riggs served as the Executive Director of the San Diego Housing Federation. In that capacity, her primary goal was to promote the creation of safe, stable, and healthy housing that is affordable to lower income families and people in need.

In addition to this work, Ms. Riggs has held several prominent positions in San Diego, including as an attorney with law firm Best, Best & Krieger, LLP, where her specialization was affordable housing and redevelopment law. Additionally, she worked for the San Diego Housing Commission from 2001-2004. She also served as Vice President of Government Affairs for the San Diego Association of Realtors® and on the adjunct faculty of San Diego State University and Southwestern College where she taught housing policy and real estate economics.

In 2011, Ms. Riggs was inducted into Lambda Alpha International, the honorary society for the advancement of land economics and was named *40 Under 40* by San Diego Metropolitan Magazine.

Ms. Riggs received her JD from Thomas Jefferson Law School, where she graduated *Magna cum Laude* in 2008. She holds a Master's degree in City Planning from the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University where she was outstanding graduate of the year in 2002. In 2014, she returned to the School of Public Affairs to receive the Donald B. Leiffer Outstanding Alumni Award. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University of Georgia-Athens.